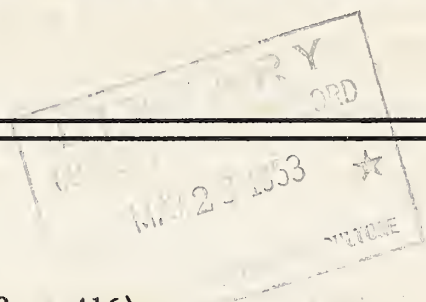


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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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SUGAR (Page 416)

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FOR RELEASE
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

April weather was very favorable for small grains in France, and the condition of the wheat crop improved considerably since rains of April 3 broke the protracted dry spell. Added to that improvement, relatively large sales of fertilizer in recent months indicate the usual or slightly increased spring applications will be made on the wheat acreage. Thus, if favorable weather continues, the wheat outturn may be expected to be about normal. Yields per hectare, however, are not expected to be up to the postwar record yields of a year ago. The area sown to wheat is estimated to be 2 to 3 percent smaller than the 1952 acreage.

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Outlook for the grain harvest in Denmark is very bright with some press reports indicating prospects of a harvest equal to the good 1952 outturn. Grain seeding was completed earlier than usual and weather conditions have been almost ideal. Some damage to winter wheat was reported but damage was not sufficient to cause much abandonment.

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The Government of Mexico has announced that all exports of live cattle from Mexico have been temporarily suspended. This action is a result of a shortage of meat in the Federal District and is expected to remain in force for only a short time. Exports of beef are presumably not affected.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD SUGAR PRODUCTION DECLINES 1/

World production of centrifugal cane and beet sugar for 1952-53 is estimated now at 35.8 million short tons, raw value, a decline of 6.5 percent from the 38.3 million tons of 1951-52 and 1.1 percent from the 36.2 million tons of 1950-51. This production exceeds the average production of 1945-49 and 1935-39 by 30.6 percent and 25.6 percent respectively.

The production of non-centrifugal sugar is estimated at 6.8 million short tons, tel quel, for 1952-53, compared with 6.5 million tons in 1951-52, an average 6.3 million tons for 1945-49 and an average 5.5 million tons for 1935-39.

World centrifugal cane sugar production for 1952-53 is estimated now at 22.7 million tons, 5.4 percent less than the record 24.0 million tons of last year. However, the crop is 6.1 percent higher than the 21.4 million tons of 1950-51, 26.1 percent higher than the average 18.0 million tons of 1945-49 and 35.9 percent higher than the average 16.7 million tons of 1935-39. The reduced production for 1952-53 reflects primarily the restricted production of Cuba and Puerto Rico. The totals for areas of the world other than North America show an increase of production in all cases.

Beet sugar production for 1952-53 is estimated now to total 13.2 million tons, 7.0 percent less than the previous year's crop of 14.2 million tons and 10.3 percent less than the record 14.7 million tons of 1950-51. Weather and disease damage reacted so unfavorably to the crop in Europe that increased acreage offset only in part the resulting decreases of production in most countries of that continent. Increased production is noted for the U.S.S.R. which experienced more favorable weather and smaller increases are noted for the beet area of continental United States and for Uruguay.

North and Central America: Production of centrifugal cane and beet sugar in North and Central America is estimated now at 12.9 million tons, or 14.0 percent less than the 15.0 million tons of 1951-52, 5.8 percent less than the 13.7 million tons of 1950-51 and only slightly higher than the crop of 1949-50. Increased production in most of the areas of North and Central America was more than offset by the restrictions on the crops of Cuba and Puerto Rico. Restricted crops of these 2 areas are almost 2.5 million tons under those of last year. Except for the beet area of the continental United States and 2 islands of the British West Indies (Barbados and Antigua), every other area of North and Central America has maintained or increased production during the current season.

1/ A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

CENTRIFUGAL SUGAR (raw value): Production in specified countries
averages 1935-39, 1945-49, annual 1949-52 $\frac{1}{2}$ /

Continent and country	Average		1949	1950	1951	1952 $\frac{1}{2}$ /
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	short	short	short	short	short	short
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
NORTH AMERICA (cane and beet)						
British Honduras	1	1	2	2	2	4
Canada (beet)	76	99	120	160	133	160
Costa Rica	9	20	23	25	33	34
El Salvador	17	27	27	31	32	35
Guatemala	19	33	40	29	33	40
Honduras	2	2	2	5	7	8
Mexico	353	636	692	778	807	865
Nicaragua	9	21	26	30	34	37
Panama	5	11	17	18	19	18
United States (beet)	1,518	1,513	1,570	2,012	1,552	1,532
United States (cane)	474	455	521	564	419	557
Hawaii	980	861	961	996	1,020	1,075
Puerto Rico	974	1,134	1,286	1,228	1,360 $\frac{4}{5}$	1,190
Virgin Islands of the U.S.	6	6	11	7	12	15
Antigua	22	25	35	21	38	29
Barbados	114	121	161	184	176	135
Cuba	3,183	5,897	6,127	6,349	7,964 $\frac{5}{2}$	5,680
Dominican Republic	491	506	524	582	648	675
Grenada	1	1	2	3	2	2
Guadeloupe	60	48	72	82	106	110
Haiti	44	49	56	65	65	67
Jamaica	119	235	304	300	298	343
Martinique	64	29	41	55	42	64
St. Kitts	36	40	46	50	57	62
St. Lucia and St. Vincent	11	11	15	14	15	16
Trinidad	149	144	164	158	154	160
Total North America	8,737	11,925	12,845	13,748	15,028	12,913
EUROPE (beet)						
Austria	196	46	74 $\frac{6}{5}$	136	175	146
Belgium	259	250	381	495	296	358
Denmark	260	266	356	410	394	306
Finland	13	14	25	25	23	24
France	1,078	823	971	1,584	1,396	1,100
Germany, Western	610	524 $\frac{7}{5}$	691 $\frac{7}{5}$	1,121	1,168	986
Ireland	89	95	112	108	100	102
Italy	410	329	556	692	803	803
Netherlands	261	270	449	453	385	465
Spain $\frac{8}{5}$	202	200	207	219	366	683
Sweden	340	311	321 $\frac{9}{5}$	343 $\frac{9}{5}$	323 $\frac{9}{5}$	269
Switzerland	13	28	29	31	33	32
United Kingdom	514	613	569	815	753	716
Yugoslavia	103	127	121	104	257	81
Total above	4,348	3,896	4,862	6,536	6,472	6,071
Total other Europe	2,926	2,056	2,707	3,334	3,070	2,324
Total Europe	7,274	5,952	7,569	9,870	9,542	8,395
U.S.S.R. (Europe & Asia)						
(beet)	2,761	1,643	2,205	2,400	2,600	2,700

CENTRIFUGAL SUGAR (raw value): Production in specified countries
averages 1935-39, 1945-49, annual 1949-52 1/2/

Continent and country	Average		1949	1950	1951	1952 3/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	short	short	short	short	short	short
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
ASIA (beet and cane)						
Afghanistan (beet)	-	-	5	5	5	4
Burma	27	10	4	5	16	20
China incl. Manchuria	87	77	81	51	72	83
Formosa	1,240	346	717	412	598	840
India	1,300	1,304	1,310	1,440	1,967	1,750
Indochina	77	11	8	7	6	6
Indonesia	1,207	102	265	386	472	505
Iran (beet)	23	41	34	68	85	87
Japan (beet)	46	11	15	23	31	38
Pakistan	30	36	50	41	83	90
Philippines, Republic of ..	1,058	382	685	935	1,077	1,165
Ryukyu Island	32	0	0	0	0	0
Syria (beet)	0	0	1	1	2	12
Thailand	21	28	35	35	42	30
Turkey (beet)	76	131	165	168	228	200
Total Asia (excl. U.S.S.R.)	5,224	2,479	3,375	3,577	4,684	4,830
SOUTH AMERICA (cane)						
Argentina	510	654	641	718	760	654
Bolivia	1	2	3	4	3	7
Brazil	830	1,418	1,480	1,737	1,865	2,044
British Guiana	210	198	219	243	272	285
Colombia	51	135	189	215	187	200
Ecuador	24	44	54	61	53	66
Paraguay	6	16	19	26	33	26
Peru	444	483	479	518	530	560
Surinam	15	5	3	4	7	8
Uruguay 10/	2	3	4	10	14	19
Venezuela	22	41	56	54	70	76
Total South America	2,115	2,999	3,147	3,590	3,794	3,945
AFRICA (cane)						
Angola	37	50	55	57	56	55
Belgian Congo	14	17	15	15	17	18
British East Africa	63	89	91	88	87	75
Egypt	166	211	193	215	208	230
Madagascar	14	14	16	15	15	17
Madeira and Azore Islands ..	9	9	10	10	11	11
Mauritius	320	351	460	505	535	516
Mozambique	81	86	91	101	92	99
Reunion	91	81	119	117	143	174
Union of South Africa	498	542	561	686	532	670
Total Africa	1,293	1,450	1,611	1,809	1,696	1,865
OCEANIA (cane)						
Australia	894	830	1,051	1,032	809	1,027
Fiji	150	131	141	134	127	145
Japanese Mandated Islands ..	69	0	0	0	0	0
Total Oceania	1,113	961	1,192	1,166	936	1,172
World total (cane)	16,747	18,024	20,274	21,440	24,079	22,666
World total (beet)	11,770	9,385	11,670	14,720	14,201	13,154
WORLD TOTAL (beet and cane)	28,517	27,409	31,944	36,160	38,280	35,820

1/Centrifugal sugar, as distinguished from non-centrifugal, includes cane and beet sugar produced by the centrifugal process, which is the principal kind moving in international trade. 2/ Years shown are for crop years; generally the harvesting season begins in the fall months of the year shown or in the early months of the following year, except in certain cane-sugar-producing countries in the Southern Hemisphere, such as Australia, Argentina, Mauritius, Union of South Africa, etc., where the season begins in May or June of the year shown. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Production probably would slightly exceed that in 1951-52 except for restrictions imposed under the Sugar Act. 5/ Production probably would exceed that of 1951-52 except for restrictions decreed by the Cuban Government. 6/ Includes a small amount of sugar from German beets processed in Austria. 7/ Includes sugar from beets grown outside of Germany. 8/ Includes a small amount of cane. 9/ Includes sugar from Danish beets processed in Sweden. 10/ 1950, 1951, 1952 include a small amount of cane. Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Estimates of countries having boundary changes have been adjusted to postwar boundaries.

Western Europe: The centrifugal sugar production of Western Europe is now estimated at 6.1 million tons this season, a decline of 6.2 percent from the 6.5 million tons of 1951-52 and 6.2 percent from the 6.5 million tons of 1950-51. Despite the increased acreage harvested in most countries of Europe, adverse weather and disease again nullified this advantage and only 6 nations maintained or increased production during the season. Italy maintained its production at last year's high level of 803,000 tons, Ireland experienced an increased production on reduced acreage while Finland experienced a slight increase of production on increased acreage. The more solid increases of production were observed in Belgium on a record planted acreage, the Netherlands on reduced acreage and in Spain which experienced a bumper crop this season.

Eastern Europe: This area (excluding the U.S.S.R.) produced only 2.3 million tons of centrifugal sugar during the current season. The revised estimate for 1952-53 constitutes a decline in production of 25.8 percent from the 3.1 million tons now estimated for 1951-52 and 30.3 percent from the 3.3 million tons of 1950-51. Latest information available from this area indicates that all producers of Eastern Europe experienced unfavorable weather which resulted in a decreased production of sugar. Previous reports had indicated a more favorable situation in Poland; the latest reports indicate that this country also had experienced adverse weather conditions and the beet crop was not fully harvested.

Latest reports on the U.S.S.R. indicate weather conditions which are the reverse of those experienced by Russia's neighboring countries. With an acreage believed to be as large as that of last year, the U.S.S.R. increased slightly the production of sugar over that of last year (revised).

Asia: The 1952-53 centrifugal sugar production of Asia is estimated now at 4.8 million tons, an increase of 2.1 percent over the 1951-52 production of 4.7 million and 33.3 percent over the 1950-51 production of 3.6 million tons. India, with a surplus of sugar from the previous crop, reduced acreage for the current season and production of centrifugal sugar was decreased by almost 220,000 tons. Except for the relatively minor producing areas of Turkey, Thailand and Afganistan, the other areas of Asia maintained or increased sugar production during the 1952-53 season.

South America: The continued increase of production for South America is reflected in the 1952-53 production of every country except Argentina and Paraguay. In Argentina heavy damage to cane from frosts lowered an otherwise record crop to 654,000 tons, 106,000 tons under the previous year's production. Brazil, now the third largest producing area exclusive of the combined United States beet and cane areas, again raised its production this season and reentered the world market as an exporter of sizable quantities of sugar.

Africa: A record crop of 1.9 million tons was produced in Africa during 1952-53. Sizable increases in the Union of South Africa, Egypt, and Reunion more than offset the decreased production of Mauritius. Except for Angola and British East Africa, the other areas of Africa maintained or increased production during the current season.

NON-CENTRIFUGAL SUGAR: Production in specified countries
averages 1935-39, 1945-49, annual 1949-52 1/2/

Continent and country	Average		1949	1950	1951	1952 <u>3/</u>
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
NORTH AMERICA						
Costa Rica	15	36	32	29	33	33
El Salvador	17	27	15	7	10	10
Guatemala	31	35	28	28	30	51
Honduras	20	23	23	23	23	23
Mexico	83	174	170	170	165	132
Nicaragua	7	14	15	15	25	25
Panama	2	9	11	11	11	11
Total North America	175	318	294	283	297	285
ASIA						
Burma	86	74	75	75	84	90
China	350	307	325	203	287	330
Formosa	32	6	14	8	12	9
India	3,098	3,366	3,280	3,575	3,675	3,700
Indonesia	81	40	40	40	115	135
Japan	4	14	16	14	14	14
Pakistan	625	800	1,000	840	790	940
Philippines, Republic of ..	63	44	36	40	50	40
Ryukyu Island	90	4	10	18	19	20
Thailand	17	22	21	21	21	21
Total Asia	4,446	4,677	4,817	4,834	5,067	5,299
SOUTH AMERICA						
Brazil	370	395	417	397	300	300
Colombia	420	755	715	715	720	720
Ecuador	15	18	26	28	25	32
Peru	9	25	27	29	24	22
Venezuela	60	110	130	130	110	110
Total South America	874	1,303	1,315	1,299	1,179	1,184
WORLD TOTAL	5,495	6,298	6,426	6,416	6,543	6,768

1/ Non-centrifugal sugar includes all types of sugar produced by other than the centrifugal process which is largely for consumption in the relatively few areas where produced. The estimates include such kinds known as piloncillo, panelo, papelon, chancaca, rapadura, jaggery, gur, muscovado, panaocha, etc. 2/ Years shown are for crop years; generally the harvesting season begins in the fall months of the year shown or in the early months of the following year except in certain cane-sugar-producing countries in the Southern Hemisphere, where the season begins in May or June of the year shown. 3/ Preliminary.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Estimates of countries having boundary changes have been adjusted to postwar boundaries.

Oceania: Australia and Fiji increased their production by 236 thousand tons this season to 1.2 million tons of sugar. This total is within 20,000 tons of the record production of 1949-50.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled articles on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

TURKEY SHIFTS FROM GRAIN IMPORTING TO GRAIN EXPORTING BASIS 1/

The rapid expansion in grain acreage and production in Turkey during the past 3 years, together with sharp yield increases for the 1951 and 1952 harvests, has placed that country among the 6 leading wheat producing countries in the world (Russia and China excluded) and among the 3 highest producers of rye and barley. It has also changed the postwar status of the country from that of an importer to that of an important exporter for both bread and feed grains.

Factors contributing to this change include the opening of new lands; more adequate cultural practices; expanding use of modern tillage and seedling equipment; increased use of improved seed; relatively good price incentives to producers; and favorable climatic conditions during the past 2 crop years.

As a result, Turkish grain exports during calendar 1952 were approximately 4 times larger than those of calendar 1951. Exports of all cereals during calendar 1952 totaled approximately 695,000 metric tons compared with 174,000 tons in 1951. Wheat exports accounted for about two-thirds of the total, amounting to 449,000 tons in sharp contrast to 1951 when only 20,000 tons were exported. During preceding postwar years, Turkey was on an import basis for most grains.

Striking as are the increases in exports, the movement of Turkish grain into export channels during the past 2 calendar years lagged behind anticipated levels due to problems arising out of export pricing policies and inadequacy of storage, handling, and transportation facilities both at interior receiving points and at ports. There is now underway a program of purchase and installation of sufficient facilities to permit the gradual adoption of bulk grain handling methods at both inland and port centers. With the completion of this program and with export prices currently being brought more realistically in line with world market levels, Turkey should find it much easier to dispose of its grain surplus in export markets.

The Turkish grain marketing season runs from June 1 to May 31 of each year. A Government Monopoly, usually referred to as TOPRAK, purchases grain from producers at fixed prices, redistributes it for domestic use, and handles all exports of major grains. Total purchases of 1952-53 crop grain by TOPRAK up to January 15, 1953 amounted to approximately 1.5 million metric tons.

1/ Based on reports from Laurell L. Scranton, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Ankara, Turkey.

Purchases were continuing as of mid-January, but at a greatly reduced rate. It was believed, however, that a substantial tonnage would still be delivered by producers, especially if the advancing season continued to give promise of another good crop. While only 355,000 metric tons of grain had actually been exported by TOPRAK up to January 15, 1953, export contracts actually completed as of that date totaled 857,000 tons.

TOPRAK's 1952-53 Grain Operation Up to January 15, 1953

Product	: TOPRAK : stocks : 6/1/52	: Purchases : up to : 1/15/53	: TOPRAK's : Total : Supply	: Exports	: Domestic : Sales
	:Metric tons	:Metric tons	:Metric tons	:Metric tons	:Metric tons
Wheat.....	320,164	1,175,509	1,495,673	280,000	977,535
Rye.....	59,929	92,651	152,580	25,000	14,000
Corn.....	36,409	23,155	59,564	2,000	25,000
Barley.....	57,603	168,939	226,542	48,000	-
Oats.....	2,707	14,865	17,572	-	8,000
Total.....	476,812	1,475,119	1,951,931	335,000	297,000

Source: TOPRAK

The price guaranteed to wheat growers for 1952-53 deliveries to TOPRAK range from 20.00 to 30.00 kurus per kilogram (\$71.43 to \$107.14 per metric ton), depending on quality. According to TOPRAK, the expenses for handling, storage, transportation and administration of grain for export amounts to T.L. 60.00 (\$21.42) per ton. It would appear, therefore, that TOPRAK's export price would have to range from \$92.85 to \$128.56 per ton in order to cover its purchase price and subsequent costs. Export contracts during the first half of the 1952-53 season were concluded at prices ranging from \$96.00 to \$136.00 per ton, with most recent quotations near the lower level.

March prospects for 1953 smallgrain crops appeared to be favorable enough to warrant the forecast of another large crop for the third consecutive year. However, critical periods still remained, including the possibility of a late freeze, the necessity of April-May rains to promote heading and filling, and the danger of rust damage later in the season. As of January 31, 1953, preliminary data of the Ministry of Agriculture indicated that total fall seeding up to that date was running ahead of last year's winter seeding by almost 800,000 hectares. Ordinarily about three-fourths of the total small grain area (wheat, barley, rye, mixed grains, spelt, and oats) is sown by January 31, although seeding continues as the weather permits. If the spring seeding comes up to average, the total acreage for 1952-53 will well exceed 1951-52.

TOPRAK Export Sales and Actual Exports, June 1, 1952 to January 15, 1953

Sales To	: Wheat	: Rye	: Barley	: Corn
	:Metric tons	:Metric tons	:Metric tons	:Metric tons
Pakistan.....	100,000	-	-	-
Yugoslavia.....	150,000	-	-	-
Italy.....	220,000	-	-	-
Greece.....	50,000	-	-	-
Israel.....	6,000	-	-	-
Germany.....	-	100,000	180,000	-
Turkish exporters....	-	4,000	45,000	2,000
Total sales.....	526,000	104,000	225,000	2,000
Actual exports.....	280,000	25,000	48,000	2,000

Source: TOPRAK

URUGUAY WOOL TRADE
MAINTAINED IN MARCH

Volume of wool trading in Uruguay during March was almost identical to that during February with the United States continuing to take about 30 percent of the total bales exported, according to the American Embassy, Montevideo. Prices, however, improved somewhat with superfines selling at the end of the month for from 2 to 2½ pesos higher per 10 ten kilograms than at the end of February.

During March the Contralor of Exports and Imports authorized sales and exports of 29,077 bales of greasy and washed wool of which 4,881 were for the United States. Wool tops export permits granted during the month amounted to 6,214 bales of which 2,214 are for the United States.

Cumulative exports of greasy and washed wool authorized during the first 6 months of the wool year (October 1 through March 31) amounted to 148,751 bales of which 43,085 were from the old 1951-52 clip, while 106,666 bales represent wool from the current clip. Wool tops authorizations during the same period amounted to 38,532 bales.

Actual shipments of all wool types during March totaled 23,498 bales, almost the same as during February and brought total exports for the 6 months to 151,565 bales as compared to only 20,428 during the corresponding period of the previous wool year. The United Kingdom continued to lead the United States slightly as purchaser of total bales, though the total value of purchases by the United States is undoubtedly considerably larger due to the substantial quantities of tops included.

Wool Exports from Uruguay by Country of Destination
October 1, 1952 - March 31, 1953
(bales)

<u>Country of Destination</u>	<u>Greasy & Washed</u>	<u>Tops</u>	<u>Other Processed</u>	<u>Total</u>
United Kingdom	44,973	1,148	103	46,224
United States	36,681	6,796	2,024	45,501
Italy	10,575	904	--	11,479
Germany	9,280	549	8	9,837
Holland	5,618	2,708	51	8,377
Belgium	6,501	1,166	502	8,169
Japan	1,986	5,069	--	7,055
France	7,001	--	43	7,044
Switzerland	867	1,855	30	2,752
Sweden	1,420	208	30	1,658
Denmark	860	--	--	860
Others	<u>1,365</u>	<u>679</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>2,609</u>
TOTAL	127,627	21,082	2,856	151,565

RECEIPTS, STOCKS AND SALES OF
AUSTRALIAN WOOL UP

Of the 3,690,000 bales of 1952-53 clip wool which the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates will be received into store during the current selling season, 3,388,009 bales had been received into store by March 31st, leaving about 302,000 bales still in growers' hands. In addition, 90,783 bales carried over from the previous season or received for resale had been received into store, making total cumulative receipts of 3,478,797 bales, 348,159 bales or 11.1 percent more than had been received on the same date a year earlier. A total of 2,955,841 bales had been sold at auction and 21,101 bales had been shipped abroad for sale, leaving 501,855 bales in store at the end of February, 67,663 bales or 15.6 percent more than had been in store a year earlier.

During the first 9 months of the current selling season the quantity of wool sold at auction in Australia was 10.4 percent larger than during the first 9 months of the previous season, while proceeds were about 24.3 percent larger than was realized from sales during the first 9 months of 1951-52. Average prices received during the 9 month period were 77.0 cents per lb. for greasy wool and 101.0 cents per pound for scoured wool compared with 69.9 for greasy wool and 98.6 for scoured a year earlier.

The average net weight per bale of the greasy wool sold at auction in Australia during the first 9 months of the current season was 303.6 pounds compared with 296.3 pounds a year earlier, while bales of scoured wool averaged 223.3 pounds compared with 220.1 pounds a year earlier.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES
REMAIN FIRM

Australian wool prices, particularly of the stronger merino fleeces, strengthened noticeably during the last 2 weeks of March but lost most of their gains during the first week's sales after the Easter recess, according to Thomas C. M. Robinson, Agricultural Attache, American Consulate General, Sydney. The market as of the last of April was firmer than many observers thought it would be, considering the lower quality fleeces marketed toward the end of the season, and a satisfactory conclusion to the current marketing season is expected.

Average prices of both greasy and scoured wool during March were much higher than a year earlier, 52 percent higher for greasy wool and 29 percent higher for scoured wool. During the first 9 months of the current marketing year prices were higher than a year earlier by 7.1 cents for greasy wool and 2.4 cents for scoured. Total proceeds for sales in all Australian Centers during the first 9 months of the year were over \$135 million larger than during the same period in 1951-52.

Total wool exports during the first 8 months of the current season were about 26 percent larger than a year earlier, with exports of greasy wool up 27 percent, scoured wool up 10 percent, carbonized wool up 21 percent, wool noils up 24 percent, wool tops up 184 percent, and waste wool up 59 percent. The United States had taken less than 8 percent of the total through the end

PAKISTAN ACTS TO EXPAND GRAIN PRODUCTION

The Government of Pakistan has set up a Grow More Food Emergency Committee to make specific recommendations for immediate action to meet the wheat deficit in that country, according to the American Embassy at Karachi. The Committee was given full power by the Government to implement its recommendations for an immediate increase in the production of food grains, including measures to bring about an increase in the total area under cultivation and an increase in yields.

The Committee is specifically authorized to examine the immediate requirements of the Provinces and States for seed, fertilizers, insecticides, and agricultural machinery; to arrange for procurement and distribution of such materials; to take such other short-term measures as may be necessary for increasing food production; and to make specific recommendations to the Government for long-term measures requiring recurring expenditures in future years.

Provincial Committees are being set up to work with the Central Committee in implementing short and long-term programs for increased food production. One of the first objectives will be to bring about a shift in acreage from cash crops to summer grains, particular grain sorghums and millets. This will be done by reducing the tax rates on additional acreage planted to grain, while increasing the tax on acreage devoted to oilseeds and cotton.

Top priority is to be given to measures that will provide more adequate supplies of water for irrigation, and that will assure larger supplies and a better distribution of fertilizers. Specific steps will also be taken for the control of insect pests and plant diseases.

Drastic measures to bring about a speedy increase in grain production have already been taken by the Punjab Government. Other Provinces and States of the country are working on similar programs with assurances from the Government of Pakistan that it will give them every possible encouragement and support.

INDIA'S WHEAT CROP LARGER

India's wheat harvest, now nearing completion, is slightly larger than the crops of the past 2 years, according to preliminary forecasts. Both acreage and yields are expected to exceed those of a year ago.

Preliminary indications pointed to an outturn of about 225 million bushels, at latest report. This unofficial forecast compares with the official estimate of 215 million for the 1952 outturn. A crop of this size would still fall considerably short of the country's requirements, and substantial imports will again be required in the current season. Imports during 1953 are expected to fall between 65 and 70 million bushels.

The acreage for the current crop is now officially estimated at 22.1 million acres. This is the second official estimate of acreage, which does not cover the entire area sown to wheat. Final estimates for recent years have been about 7 percent higher than the second estimate for wheat. Increases are reported for most of the important producing States. Favorable weather favored seeding in most of those States, whereas adverse conditions in some less important producing areas resulted in reductions. The largest reduction was reported for Madhya Bharat where the current estimate of 1.4 million acres is about 10 percent less than in 1952.

IRAN'S COTTON CROP ESTIMATE REVISED DOWNWARD

The 1952-53 cotton crop in Iran is now estimated at 147,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) instead of 165,000 bales as estimated earlier according to a current report from H. C. Lint, American Agricultural Attache, Tehran. This is still a record crop slightly exceeding the 124,000 bales produced in 1951-52 and 129,000 in 1950-51. Preliminary reports place the acreage planted for the 1953-54 crop at about 500,000 acres compared with 445,000 last year. Growing conditions have been favorable this year to the end of April.

Consumption of cotton in Iran in 1952-53 (Iranian market year ends August 22) is estimated at 69,000 bales, the same as in the previous year. Spinning operations were begun recently in a new mill but it is not yet working at capacity.

Exports of 40,000 bales during the 5 months ended January 20, 1953, were equal to those for the previous 12 months. Germany was the destination for 21,000 bales of the current season's exports, Japan 5,000, Hungary 4,000, and Italy 3,000. In 1951-52, 18,000 bales were exported to the Soviet Union, 14,000 to Germany, and 3,000 to Italy. Exportable surplus remaining from the 1952-53 crop on January 20, 1953, amounted to about 40,000 bales. Exports of this quantity during the last 7 months of the current season would leave stocks on August 22, 1953, at about 23,000 bales or 2,000 less than those of a year ago.

Export prices of Iranian cotton f.o.b. port of Khorramshahr on April 23, 1953, were as follows:

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Rials per kilo</u>	<u>Cents a lb.</u>
Cokers	61	29.13
Filestani	60	28.65
Amrikai	53	25.31
Bouni	42	20.05

Wholesale prices at Tehran on the same date were 2 rials a kilo (0.95 cent a pound) lower than the export prices. Apparently there is no export tax on Iranian cotton.

MEXICO'S 1953 FATS AND OILS SUPPLY EXPECTED NEAR PEAK

Mexico's fats and oils outlook for 1953 is for a volume of supplies in the neighborhood of 286,500 short tons, slightly under the 1952 level but higher than in any other previous year, reports Ana M. Gomez, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Mexico City. Supplies from domestic sources are expected to meet about 90 percent of the 1953 requirement as compared with 84 percent last year. Although there were unusually large imports of cottonseed oil in the latter part of 1951 and in 1952, lard and tallow from the United States have comprised the bulk of Mexico's fats and oils imports in recent years.

The proportion of vegetable oils in the 1953 total supply is expected to be approximately the same as last year, or 67 percent. Cottonseed is still expected to be the chief source of vegetable oil, although the total quantity available is likely to be smaller as a result of a slightly lower 1952-53 domestic production and restrictions on imports. Increased supplies of coconut, sesame, palm nut and peanut oils are expected to be available in 1953 through larger domestic production. A slightly higher production of both lard and tallow is also forecast, but total supplies of animal fats may be somewhat lower because of restricted imports.

MEXICO: Fats and oils supply, by product, 1949 through 1952, and forecast for 1953 (Short tons)

Oil or Fat	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Vegetable oil					
Cottonseed.....	29,561:	52,744:	74,532:	88,946:	72,475
Coconut.....	31,520:	30,389:	33,316:	39,683:	46,300
Palm nut.....	6,952:	7,174:	7,530:	8,201:	10,250
Sesame.....	46,539:	53,886:	39,019:	42,225:	43,900
Peanut.....	10,262:	10,873:	7,938:	8,104:	9,090
Linseed.....1/	1,684:	9,739:	6,071:	5,288:	5,660
Castor.....	1,343:	909:	1,099:	1,017:	1,730
Rapeseed.....	1,852:	1,852:	1,852:	1,852:	1,235
Olive.....	648:	829:	1,015:	594:	550
Other.....	220:	121:	86:	330:	330
Total.....	127,213:	168,516:	172,508:	196,240:	190,920
Animal fat					
Lard.....	52,561:	54,083:	53,477:	48,273:	48,720
Tallow and other fats.....	35,576:	30,553:	42,283:	52,096:	46,900
Total.....	88,137:	84,636:	95,760:	100,369:	95,620
Grand total.....	215,350:	253,152:	268,268:	296,609:	286,540

1/ Exports in 1949 exceeded estimated production by this quantity which must have come from previous year's carryover.

American Embassy, Mexico City.

The trade outlook for 1953 is for oleaginous imports to be limited to cottonseed for planting, amounting to about 5,500 tons, and to the customary imports of olive oil from Spain of about 550 tons. The country's requirements for tallow this year are forecast at approximately 16,500 tons. However, substantial imports are not likely to take place until the second half of the year. Imports of lard are expected to be about the same as during the past few years, or around 11,000 tons. Exports, as in 1952, will consist chiefly of flaxseed and peanuts. Quantities available for export this year will be slightly lower in the case of flaxseed and somewhat larger in the case of peanuts.

In 1952, Mexico imported 13,732 tons of vegetable oils and 6,000 tons of oil-bearing material, principally cottonseed. Vegetable oil imports consisted mainly of cottonseed oil from the United States and olive oil from Spain. Imports of all animal fats totaled 33,889 tons, including 11,324 tons of lard and 22,198 tons of other animal fats, mainly tallow, from the United States.

Prices of most oilseeds and oils have declined steadily during 1952 and the first 2 months of 1953. The decline was most pronounced in the case of copra and cottonseed and their oils. The average wholesale price for domestic hog lard in Mexico City in 1952 was 4.63 pesos per kilo (24.3 cents per pound), as compared with 3.92 pesos (20.6) for the imported product. In February 1953, the price for domestic lard rose to 5.00 pesos (26.4), while imported lard declined to 3.25 pesos (17.1 cents per pound).

CANADA'S SOYBEAN, OIL IMPORTS TO CONTINUE LARGE IN 1953

Canada's imports of soybeans and soybean oil, which made up 27 percent of the total importation in 1952 of 133,308 short tons oil equivalent, are expected to continue large in 1953, reports William L. Rodman, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Ottawa.

Domestic soybean production in 1953 again is expected to be well below processors' needs, and flaxseed output will probably decrease due to a heavy carry-over of stocks and relatively low prices in comparison to other crops. Production of other oilseeds in Canada this year will probably remain near the 1952 level. (See Foreign Crops and Markets of December 1, 1952, page 506). Output of animal fats should equal that of 1952, due to an expected large livestock slaughter. However, their use in the manufacture of shortening is expected to decline from the 1952 quantity as processors revert to the use of vegetable oils.

Total Canadian fats and oils production during 1952, at 262,145 tons, was well above that of 1951 with the bulk of the gain represented by lard and edible tallow. As exports of livestock and meats from Canada were curtailed last season by the United States embargo, there was a greater abundance of animal oils at reduced prices available to the domestic market. This was reflected in a significant changeover to their use from vegetable oils in the manufacture of shortening. Canadian agricultural officials here believe the shift to be of a temporary nature only and that there will be a drop in the use of animal oils this year. As stocks will be ample, no strengthening in the price of animal oils is anticipated.

Prior to World War II nearly 60 percent of Canadian fats and oils imports originated in the United Kingdom and the Far East. Today the bulk of such imports comes from the United States and South America. Importation of fats and oils by Canada during the years 1937-39 averaged nearly 115,000 tons per annum. In 1951 imports were slightly over 150,000 tons but decreased during 1952 to 133,308 tons due to ample domestic stocks of animal oils. Edible vegetable oils imported in 1952 included cottonseed oil--32,858 tons, soybean oil--7,840 tons, peanut oil--918 tons, sunflower oil--1,068 tons, and 5,178 tons of other edible oils. Coconut oil imports totaled 8,375 tons and palm oil 4,198 tons.

With the exception of the palm and sunflower oils, which came principally from the Belgian Congo and Uruguay, respectively, almost all of the above oils came from the United States. The oil equivalent of oil-bearing materials imported in 1952, mainly soybeans from the United States and copra from the Philippines, amounted to about 50,000 tons. Animal fat imports last year were mainly 13,872 tons of tallow and grease. Imports of industrial and other vegetable oils totaled 7,122 tons and marine oils 686 tons.

The oil seed crushing industry in Canada has expanded significantly during the last decade and now exceeds the domestic production of oil seeds. As it was easier to obtain and transport crushing stock than liquid oil during the War, the growth of this industry was more rapid than it might have been in normal times. Canadian processors are finding it increasingly economical to import oil seeds for crushing now that ample facilities are available.

Total vegetable oil production in Canada last year amounted to approximately 99,758 tons as compared with 88,070 tons in 1951. Although their consumption in margarine remained approximately the same during each of the last two years, there was a decrease of over 3,000 tons during 1952 in vegetable oils consumed in shortening, resulting from the shift to animal oils explained above. Likewise, there was a marked substitution among the vegetable oils used in the production of both shortening and margarine.

EARLY FIELD WORK IN FINLAND.

The unseasonably warm weather in Finland this spring has caused sowing to begin 2 to 3 weeks earlier than usual. Many farmers are using the extra time gained to plow fields which ordinarily would have been plowed last fall, had the weather permitted. Shortage of foreign exchange is restricting the amount of nitrogenous fertilizer available to farmers this year.

CHINESE SOYBEANS THROUGH
SUEZ CANAL UP SHARPLY

Bulk shipments of Chinese soybeans through the Suez Canal during January-March 1953 of 107,758 short tons (3,591,930 bushels) were more than 3 and one-half times the volume which transited the Canal in the corresponding period of 1952, according to a report from Port Said. In the preceding 3-month period, bulk shipments consisted of a single cargo of 11,199 tons, and no movement was recorded in third quarter 1952. In the current period under review, 2 cargos totaling 20,216 tons passed through the Canal in January, 4 in February--43,376 tons, and 4 in March--44,166 tons. Origin and destination of the January-March movement and comparable 1952 data, is shown below:

<u>Port of origin</u>	<u>Port of destination</u>	<u>1952</u> (Short tons)	<u>1953</u>
Dairen, China	Hamburg, Germany	-	1/ 20,988
Dairen, China	Hamburg, Germany	-	11,133
Dairen, China	Copenhagen, Denmark	-	13,228
Dairen, China	Gdynia, Poland	-	9,645
Dairen, China	Novorossisk, Soviet Union	-	9,590
Dairen, China	Bristol, England	8,598	-
Dairen, China	Stettin, Poland	9,420	-
Tsingtao, China	Gdynia, Poland	-	9,921
Chinwangtao, China	Gdynia, Poland	-	10,913
Chinwangtao, China	Hamburg, Germany	-	11,771
Takubar, China	Rotterdam, Netherlands	-	10,569
Kohsichang, Thailand	Rotterdam, Netherlands	11,321	-
		29,339	107,758

1/ Two cargos.

Due to the present international political situation, it is difficult to forecast the total Suez movement of Chinese soybeans for the entire year 1953. First quarter shipments, however, were at about 90 percent of the 1951 rate of movement. In that year 524,063 tons, or 17,468,770 bushels, passed through the Canal. In 1952, total bulk soybean shipments dropped to 166,475 tons, or 5,549,170 bushels. In addition to soybeans as such, one bulk cargo of 8,862 tons of soybean oil (equivalent to 59,083 tons or 1,969,430 bushels of beans) and 2 cargos of oil totaling 12,169 tons (81,129 tons or 2,704,310 bushels) passed through the Canal in 1951 and 1952, respectively. (see Foreign Crops and Markets of March 9, 1953, page 213).

INDIA'S OILSEED CROPS EXCEPT PEANUTS EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN 1952-53

In 1952-53, larger acreages were planted to all major oilseed crops in India except castor, and the outlook is for increased production of all oilseeds and their oils except peanuts, reports C. E. Pike, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, New Delhi. With the decline of an estimated 169,000 short tons in the production of peanuts, the principal vegetable oil crop, total production of the major oilseed crops, peanuts, sesame, castor, flaxseed and rape and mustard, is expected to be down 44,000 tons from 1951-52.

INDIA: Estimated acreage and production of principal vegetable oilseeds and oils, 1951-52 and 1952-53

Year	: Peanuts:	Sesame	: Castor	: Rape and	: Flaxseed	: Total
	: 1/:		: beans 2/	: mustard		
	Area (1,000 acres)					
1951-52 3/...	11,798:	5,731:	1,428:	5,707:	3,298:	27,962
1952-53.....	4/11,862:5/	6,000:3/	1,349:5/	5,900:5/	3,350:5/	28,461
	Production (1,000 short tons)					
1951-52 3/...	3,410:	494:	118:	1,008:6/	346:	5,376
1952-53.....	4/ 3,241:5/	515:3/	120:5/	1,064:5/6/	392:5/	5,332
	Oil production (1,000 short tons)					
1951-52 7/...	840:	190:	84:	137:	31:	1,282
1952-53 7/...	784:	196:	101:	145:	34:	1,260

1/ Unshelled nuts. 2/ Oil production is complete but estimates of acreage and oilseed production are for pure crop only. 3/ Official estimates of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India. 4/ Final official. Embassy forecast is somewhat less. 5/ Embassy forecast based on information from trade and official sources. 6/ Equivalent in 1,000 bushels: 1951-52--12,360; 1952-53--14,000. 7/ Must be considered as rough approximations only as there are no official or unofficial estimates compiled on vegetable oil production.

American Embassy, New Delhi

Based on the official estimate of cotton production, India's 1952-53 production of cottonseed should total roughly 1.4 million tons or not greatly different from that of the previous season. Very little cottonseed, however, is crushed for oil.

The great bulk of India's production of vegetable oilseeds and oil is retained in the country for domestic consumption. Nevertheless, the export of oilseeds and vegetable oils, particularly the latter, provide an important source of foreign exchange.

During 1952 vegetable oil exports totaled 148,967 tons valued at 240.2 million rupees (\$50.4 million) and oilseed exports totaled 41,965 tons valued at 36.6 million rupees (\$7.7 million). This compares with exports during 1951 of 151,009 tons of vegetable oils and 82,714 tons of oilseeds valued at 304.6 million rupees (\$64.0 million) and 76.7 million rupees (\$16.1 million), respectively.

INDIA: Exports of important oilseeds and vegetable oils,
calendar years 1951 and 1952

(Short tons)

Oilseeds			Vegetable oils		
Type and destination	1951	1952	Type and destination	1951	1952
<u>Castor</u>			<u>Castor</u>		
United Kingdom:	2,544	-	United Kingdom	12,289	6,465
Japan	5,686	-	Netherlands	2,498	3,034
United States	3,004	4,948	United States	4,899	22,906
Others	1,206	-	Others	10,081	4,431
Total	12,440	4,948	Total	29,767	36,836
<u>Peanut</u>			<u>Peanut</u>		
United Kingdom:	963	280	United Kingdom	5,915	6,020
Norway	2,115	2,496	Western Germany	3,323	2,558
Netherlands	1,080	2,211	Netherlands	9,355	16,267
Switzerland	9,529	2,931	Belgium	2,400	4,291
Canada	7,256	8,241	Italy	30,876	10,590
Others	22,002	3,429	Burma	4,280	10,139
Total	42,945	19,588	Canada	8,671	54
			Others	14,345	16,032
<u>Flaxseed</u>			Total	79,165	65,951
Japan	18,266	-			
Australia	-	2,474	<u>Flaxseed</u>		
Others	2,816	610	United Kingdom	1,274	9,873
Total	21,082	3,084	Italy	-	3,990
			Australia	11,775	2,926
<u>Mustard</u>	256	24	Others	6,905	19,122
<u>Niger</u>	3,005	10,742	Total	19,954	35,911
<u>Poppy</u>	17	48			
<u>Rape</u>	336	-	<u>Mustard or Rape</u>	137	471
<u>Sesame</u>	2,633	3,531	<u>Salad 1/</u>	-	456
			<u>Other sorts</u>	21,986	9,342
Grand total	82,714	41,965		151,009	148,967

1/ Separately specified from April 1952.

Accounts Relating to the Foreign Trade (Sea, Air and Land) and Navigation of India, issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

During 1952, the Government of India continued its policy of limiting the export of vegetable oilseeds and of controlling the quantity of oil exported. Except for limited quantities of certain oilseeds chiefly directed to the dollar area, export allocations were established in terms of oil.

In mid-December 1952 the Government announced export quotas for January-June 1953. A quota of 40,000 long tons (in terms of oil) was fixed for peanuts and peanut oil. All existing castor oil quota holders were granted export allotments equal to their allotments for the period July-December 1952. It was further announced that kardi seed, niger seed and their oils would continue to be licensed freely for export and that the Government would be liberal in the granting of export quotas for linseed oil.

On January 30, 1953, the Government announced that castor oil would be licensed freely for export during the period February 1-April 30. On February 25, the Government authorized 5,000 long tons of sesame seed for export. On April 1, it was announced that the period of shipment of the 40,000 long tons (terms of oil) of peanut and peanut oil export quota allocated for January-June 1953 would be extended through August 31, 1953. It is understood that less than 50 percent of the quota was licensed for shipment through March 31.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture estimates that about 80 percent of the production of edible oils is used directly for human consumption. Except for limited quantities exported, practically all the balance is used for the manufacture of hydrogenated oil (vanaspati). The industry has shown a remarkable expansion in recent years, output increasing from only 49,728 short tons in 1938 to 201,600 tons in 1951 and 212,800 tons in 1952. Forty of the 48 vanaspati producing units in the country were active during 1952.

Stocks at the end of 1952 were generally somewhat larger than at the end of 1951, and, considering the production outlook for 1952-53, were quite adequate to take care of the estimated domestic consumption plus authorized exports. Now, however, consequent to the reduced production outlook for the 1952-53 peanut crop, a severe shortage of peanut oil is anticipated by the trade as the season advances. No exports of peanuts or peanut oil are likely to be allowed after August 31.

Oilseed and oil prices at the end of 1952 were generally around the lowest level since the spring months. About the beginning of 1953, prices started upward and have continued this trend. For the week ending March 7, 1953, wholesale prices of major oilseeds and oils were as follows on designated markets: rapeseed (Bombay), 4.88 cents per pound; mustard seed (Calcutta), 4.59; flaxseed (Bombay), 5.44; peanut kernels (Bombay), 7.59; castor beans (Bombay), 5.81; cottonseed (Bombay), 3.09; mustard oil (Bombay), 14.0; linseed oil (Bombay), 10.88; peanut oil (Bombay), 16.49; castor oil (Bombay), 13.50; and sesame oil (Madras), 16.40 cents.

ARGENTINA'S INEDIBLE OIL SUPPLIES
SUBSTANTIAL; EDIBLE OIL SUPPLIES SMALL

Argentine supplies of inedible oils as of mid-April approximated an average year's production, while edible oil stocks (April 1) were only sufficient to meet local requirements until new production is available from the 1952-53 crop, according to Charles C. Wilson, Assistant Agricultural Attache, Buenos Aires.

ARGENTINA: Fats and oils production estimates, 1952 and 1953

(Short tons)				
Commodity	:	1952	:	1953
<hr/>				
<u>Vegetable oils, inedible:</u>	:		:	
Linseed	:	77,160	:	138-165,000
Tung	:	4,960	:	16,530
<u>Vegetable oils, edible:</u>	:		:	
Cottonseed	:	28,660	:	31,970
Peanut	:	33,070	:	49,600
Sunflower	:	176,370	:	143,300
Olive	:	3,300	:	3,300
<u>Animal fats, inedible:</u>	:		:	
Beef	:	88,180	:	82,670
Mutton	:	3,300	:	3,300
<u>Animal fats, edible:</u>	:		:	
Beef	:	88,180	:	77,160
Mutton	:	2,200	:	2,200
Hog (lard)	:	16,530	:	19,840
	:		:	

American Embassy, Buenos Aires.
Compiled from trade sources.

Flaxseed production in 1952-53 is officially estimated at 22.4 million bushels, almost double the small 1951-52 crop of 11.9 million bushels. Unsold stocks of linseed oil on April 1 approximated 87,000 short tons. In addition, there were 33,000 tons committed for export but not shipped. When combined with the probable oil output from the past crop, total availability will be in the neighborhood of 325,000 to 350,000 tons. About 33,000 tons are used in Argentina annually. Exports during 1952 totaled only 1,024,863 bushels of flaxseed and 34,042 tons of linseed oil. Seed shipments were mainly to France, and oil went chiefly to the United Kingdom.

For their 1952-53 flaxseed crop, farmers were paid on the basis of 65 pesos per 100 kilos, delivered in boxcars at the port of Buenos Aires. The same price has been announced for the 1953-54 production. Crushers received 2.12 pesos per kilo for oil of the 1951-52 crop but the price was raised to 2.83 pesos for the recent harvest to compensate for higher seed prices. The base price to crushers sets the price for oil sold locally. Export quotations set by IAPI, f.o.b. Buenos Aires, dropped from 3.25 pesos per kilo (29.5 cents per pound) the first part of 1952 to the current level of 1.10 pesos (10 cents) for payment in dollars and 1.17 pesos (10.6 cents) in pound sterling.

The outlook for trading is rather pessimistic at present, with heavy stocks and light foreign demand. Further export efforts seem likely, however, since storage facilities for vegetable oils are reported to be largely filled.

The 1952-53 tung fruit crop soon to be harvested is expected to approach 110,000 short tons, a new record, compared with the low yield of 32,700 tons (official) from the 1951-52 crop. The oil equivalent will approximate 16,500 tons. Oil from the 1951-52 fruit is estimated unofficially at 4,960 tons. (Early unofficial estimates had placed fruit production at 55,000 tons and oil at 8,800 tons). Tung oil exports in 1952 totaled 10,920 tons, of which 10,872 tons was sold to the United States. In January 1953, 218 tons were sent to the United States (none in February and March), followed by 992 tons in early April. During the first 2 months of 1953, 312 tons were shipped to Spain.

On March 29, 1953, IAPI announced provisionally that tung oil processors will be paid 6,000 pesos per metric ton f.a.s., Buenos Aires for oil from the 1952-53 crop (crushed in 1953) compared with 4,960 pesos for oil from the 1951-52 crop. The minimum official price to producers for tung fruit of the 1952 crop was fixed at 580 pesos per metric ton, delivered to crushing plants, compared with 550 pesos for the 1951 crop.

The Argentine outlook for tung is not favorable. Growers invested in new equipment and tanks to take care of the expected heavy 1952-53 crop. However, the recent imposition of a quota on imports into the United States may seriously curtail the quantities of Argentine tung oil marketed in the United States.

Argentina produced 714,000 tons of sunflower seed in 1951-52, providing about 680,000 tons for crushing with an oil equivalent of approximately 176,000 tons. Stocks of sunflower seed oil on April 1, 1953 approximated 44,000 tons (33,000 from the 1950-51 crop) or about enough to meet local needs until supplies become available from the 1953 harvest. Unofficial sources place plantings of the 1952-53 crop at about 3.5 million acres or a reduction of 12 percent from last year. Weather conditions have been only fair and yields are expected to be light so that the crop may be around 550,000 tons. This would provide about 520,000 tons for crushing which would yield approximately 143,000 tons of oil.

Exports of sunflower seed oil in 1952 totaled only 11,051 tons. The bulk of the oil went to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The export of 1,569 tons in January 1953 was to Chile.

Minimum official price to producers of sunflower seed from the 1952-53 crop is unchanged from last year at 44 pesos per 100 kilos, delivered at Buenos Aires. However, the price of 2.25 pesos per liter of oil guaranteed to crushers by IAPI was raised in December 1952 to 2.70. Consumers have been paying 3.40 pesos per kilo. For several months IAPI's export quotation has been 2.02 pesos per kilo (18.3 cents per pound) f.o.b. Buenos Aires.

The 1952-53 peanut crop is estimated at 198,000 tons, somewhat over last year's 154,000 tons. This would provide an oil output of about 50,000 tons. The very satisfactory price of 100 pesos per 100 kilos which was paid producers for shelled peanuts last year is expected for this crop. Crushers received 3.74 pesos per liter for 1951-52 oil. They report this price too low and are carrying on active discussions with IAPI for an increase to 4.20 pesos. No exports of peanut oil were reported in 1952.

Cottonseed production from the 1951-52 cotton crop is calculated at 298,000 tons. With 265,000 tons available for crushing, oil production probably approximated 28,700 tons. IAPI reportedly had 11,000 tons still in storage on April 1, 1953 and private stocks approximated 2,200 tons. Production from the 1952-53 cotton crop is expected to be about 320,000 tons of seed. Allowing about 285,000 tons for crushing, oil production maybe about 32,000 tons. Oil from the 1951-52 crop was wholesaled locally at about 2.68 pesos per kilo, IAPI's guaranteed price to crushers. Minimum IAPI quotations to exporters have been 2.02 pesos per kilo (18.3 cents per pound), f.o.b. Buenos Aires, well above world market levels. Consequently, there were no exports reported in 1952.

Olive oil from the 1951-52 olive harvest is estimated at 3,300 tons. Stocks on April 1 were reported by the trade at 1,500 tons. Crushers expect the 1953 harvest to provide 2,750 to 3,300 tons of oil.

The small kill of animals and the tendency to limit the trimming of carcasses has greatly reduced Argentina's production of animal fats. Edible beef fat production in 1952 was about 88,000 tons and inedible fat output about the same. Unofficial sources place 1953 production at about 77,000 tons of edible and 83,000 tons of inedible fats. There are no stocks except those in marketing channels.

Mutton fat production for both 1952 and 1953 is estimated at 2,200 tons edible and 3,300 tons inedible. Lard production totaled about 16,500 tons in 1952. Production in 1953 is expected to be up about 20 percent. Normally, most of the production is exported, but since the world price for lard was unusually low in 1952, the higher domestic price held lard exports to less than 3,000 tons. A recent sale of 5,500 short tons to Brazil at 4.00 pesos per kilo (36 cents per pound) f.o.b. Buenos Aires has reportedly eliminated IAPI stocks.

The whale and seal catching season just ending is expected to yield near the 11,000 tons of oil produced in 1951-52, all for export. Fish oil output in 1952 is estimated at 1,210 tons. Practically all the production was marketed locally at near 2.00 pesos per kilo.

